

House Bill 5827 - Clarifying language for dental therapists

Single-section amendment to the Public Health Code needed to clarify that a dental therapy student may complete the 500 directly-supervised hours necessary for licensure in statute under the supervision of a dentist licensed in Michigan or in another state.

Why? Under rules proposed for dental therapist licensure, the 500 directly-supervised hours would be completed as part of the applicant's educational program. Without this correction in statute, Michiganders who wish to be educated in dental therapy outside the state and return here to be licensed as a dental therapist would either have to repeat the 500 directly-supervised hours under supervision of a Michigan-licensed dentist or seek licensure in another state first and then apply to Michigan Board of Dentistry for reciprocity.

Please support HB 5827:

- To ensure we give Michigan residents the opportunity to seek dental therapy education in an accredited program from wherever they choose without unnecessary hurdles.
- To encourage individuals who have completed their education and 500 directly-supervised hours to come to Michigan and seek licensure.

BACKGROUND

- In June 2017, Sen. Mike Shirkey introduced Senate Bill 541 to create the scope of practice and licensing structure for dental therapists in Michigan.
- SB 541 was enacted in December, 2018 and is now Public Act 463 of 2018.
- Rules to detail how dental therapists will be licensed by the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Department are currently proposed.



Improve access to dental care in Michigan

This common sense, cost-effective legislation will enable dentists to delegate routine procedures to dental therapists working under their supervision and allow dentists to focus their time and skills on more complicated, revenue generating procedures.

Senate Bill 541 will:

- Provide** opportunities for previously underserved populations, many in rural areas, to gain access to routine dental care
- Allow** new providers to perform routine dental care: assessments, simple cavity preparation, restoration, simple extraction
- Require** practice under supervision of a dentist with detailed collaborative practice agreements
- Create** opportunities for dentists to grow their practices and reach more patients
- Establish** opportunities for dental professionals to continue their education, expand their skill set and grow their careers
- Include** direct referrals to supervising dentist; creating an ongoing relationship between patients and dental care providers
- Focus** the new workforce on our greatest access challenges, allowing increased capacity in safety net clinics and dental shortage areas
- Ensure** in all practice settings these new providers treat uninsured and Medicaid-insured patients

There is at least one dental shortage area in 77 of Michigan's 83 counties

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For more information about how HB 5827 will support the implementation of dental therapists in Michigan please contact Amy Zaagman at 517-230-1816 or azaagman@mcmch.org.